

County Employment and Wages

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Tennessee performs well in the latest jobs and pay figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment

Williamson and Rutherford counties are creating jobs faster than just about all the other large counties in the United States, according to a recent report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For the first quarter 2012, Williamson County payroll employment rose 5.6 percent over-the-year, ranking 2nd fastest among the 329 largest counties in the United States. Rutherford County payroll employment rose 5.3 percent, ranking 3rd highest.

By contrast, payroll jobs in the United States rose 1.8 percent and Tennessee increased 2.4 percent in the first quarter. Tennessee's job growth tied for fourth highest (along with Colorado, West Virginia, and Wyoming). North Dakota experienced the highest rate of growth, up 9 percent over the year, and New Mexico was the lowest at 0.4 percent.

More recent figures for Tennessee from the current employment statistics program show that employment growth slowed in the second and third quarters of 2012.

Average weekly pay

Average weekly pay in Davidson County rose 9.0 percent in the first quarter 2012 over the year, far above the United States average of 5.4 percent. Davidson County ranked 18th highest in average pay growth, placing in the top 6 percent of large counties in the United States. Knox, Hamilton, and Davidson counties placed in the highest 20 percent in pay growth, while Rutherford, Shelby, and Williamson counties placed in the top 45 percent.

Tennessee average weekly pay rose 6.8 percent over the year, ranking the state 8th highest among the fifty states. North Dakota rose 14.6 percent, the highest average pay growth, while New York experienced the lowest growth at -0.8 percent over the year.

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Employment and wages by area, First Quarter 2012						
	Employment			Average weekly pay		
	March 2012 (thousands)	Percent Change	Ranking	First Quarter 2012	Percent Change	Ranking
Davidson County	424.4	2.7	72	\$ 1,013	9.0	18
Hamilton County	183.8	2.6	78	\$ 843	7.4	51
Knox County	218.0	1.2	197	\$ 804	7.3	59
Rutherford County	101.5	5.3	3	\$ 821	5.9	145
Shelby County	466.8	2.1	115	\$ 970	6.0	139
Williamson County	96.2	5.6	2	\$ 1,125	5.9	145
Tennessee	2,636.7	2.4	4	\$ 847	6.8	8
United States	130,175.4	1.8		\$ 984	5.4	
Includes establishments covered by unemployment insurance.						
Source: County Employment and Wages Summary, Sept 27, 2012.						
http://bls.gov/news.release/cewqtr.nr0.htm						